

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3202

E. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, NP

SUBJECT: NEPALESE POSITION ON UN POLITICAL ISSUES

1. ACCORDING TO MFA JOINT SECRETARY BHATT (UN AFFAIRS), NEPAL WILL INCREASINGLY IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH THE MAIN-STREAM OF THIRD WORLD POLICIES, EVEN IF THIS MEANS ACQUIESCING IN RADICAL OR CONTENTIOUS POSITIONS. IN AN OVERALL REVIEW OF UN ISSUES WITH THE DCM, BHATT SAID THAT OVER THE LAST YEAR NEPAL'S FOREIGN POLICY HAD EVOLVED ON VARIOUS ISSUES. AT THE ALGERIAN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE NEPAL HAD REGISTERED A NUMBER OF DISSENTING VIEWS THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF FORMAL RESERVATIONS. THESE HAD NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED AND HAD HAD NO IMPACT ON THE BROAD RANGE OF DECISIONS TAKEN. AT THE HAVANA PREPARATORY CONFERENCE NEPAL DECIDED TO ABANDON ITS PREVIOUS POLICY OF MAKING RESERVATIONS ABOUT ISSUES WITH WHICH IT DID NOT AGREE AND TO ACCEPT THE CONSENSUS PROCEDUR. IT WOULD MAINTAIN THIS POSTURE IN THE FUTURE.

2. NEPAL, HE SAID, HAD NOT BENEFITTED IN ANY WAY FROM PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF MODERATE VIEWS AND INDEED THESE HAD CAUSED SOME PROBLEMS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES. NOW THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A PROSPECT OF ARAB ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (HE CITED A RECENT \$17.5
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ITS POLICIES TO BE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THE ARAB VIEWPOINT. HE EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD THEREFORE BE AN EVOLUTION IN NEPAL'S POSITION ON MIDDLE EASTERN ISSUES. WHILE THE GON STILL FIRMLY ADHERED TO UNSC RESOLUTION 242 AND THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, IT WOULD NO LONGER ABSTAIN ON VOTES RELATING TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. THE GON NOW ACCEPTED THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD A RIGHT TO AN INDEPENDENT STATE OF THEIR OWN AND WOULD VOTE TO ADMIT THE PLO TO UN BODIES AS AND WHEN THE ISSUE AROSE.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE KOREAN ISSUE HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE RECENT US INITIATIVE TO PUT AN END TO THE UN COMMAND. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO SEPARATE THAT ISSUE AND THE CREATION OF A NEW TRUCE AGREEMENT FROM THE PROPOSAL FOR UN MEMBERSHIP FOR BOTH KOREAS. HE ADDED THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD CERTAINLY BE ADMITTED TO THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AT THE LIMA FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING BUT IT WAS LESS CERTAIN THAT SOUTH KOREA WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT NEPAL'S POSITION WOULD BE, ALTHOUGH FROM THE CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS IT SEEMS LIKELY NEPAL WILL GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO BE FAVORABLE TO THE SOUTH KOREAN CAUSE.

4. OVERALL BHATT WAS REGRETFUL THAT NEPAL WAS GIVING UP SOME OF THE TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS OF ITS NON-ALIGNED POLICY. HE REITERATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT NEPAL HAD NO ALTERNATIVE; IT HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POLICIES OF BOTH ITS LARGE NEIGHBORS AND COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE ISOLATED FROM THEM OR FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF NON-ALIGNED THINKING. THIS CONCERN TO AVOID ISOLATION WOULD BE DEMONSTRATED, HE SAID, IN NEPAL'S VOTING AT NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS AND IN UN BODIES.

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